

UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES

Information on applying for a congressional nomination
to the United States Service Academies at
Annapolis, Colorado Springs, and West Point

Please read carefully and save for reference

TO ALL PROSPECTIVE ACADEMY APPLICANTS

I appreciate your interest in applying for admission to a United States Service Academy. It is a high honor to attend one of these excellent institutions, which have consistently drawn from the very best young people available. The academies provide a full four-year scholarship worth over \$150,000 — an investment made only after careful consideration of each applicant. To that end, members of Congress have been asked to nominate their most-qualified constituents to fill vacancies in each coming class.

Midshipmen and cadets at the service academies are offered many major fields of study, ranging from physics and math, aeronautical, civil, and electrical engineering to psychology, history, and international relations. Following graduation, students are awarded commissions in the armed forces and are offered careers in aviation, engineering, and combat leadership on land and at sea. Academy graduates have long served with distinction while in the armed forces and long after their return to civilian life. I take pride in sending the academies the very best young women and men from San Mateo and San Francisco Counties.

To enter the nomination process, complete the attached application form and provide my San Mateo office with the requested documents. Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns regarding this application packet or the process in general. Good luck!

THE NOMINATION PROCESS

There are two nomination categories: congressional and military service connected. Eligible applicants may apply for and receive a nomination in both categories. My office offers only a congressional nomination under the Principal with Competing Alternates method of candidate selection.

This nominating system allows my office to designate a principal congressional nominee and nine other unranked, competing alternates to be considered for appointment by a service academy as either Department of the Army, Navy, or Air Force nominees.

If my principal nominee meets the eligibility standards, he or she must be appointed to fill the congressional vacancy. If for some reason my principal nominee does not qualify for appointments, the alternates compete for the congressional vacancy. If all ten candidates are qualified, all ten (one as a congressional and nine as Department of the Army, Navy, or Air Force appointees) may be selected, space permitting, for an appointment.

Each member of Congress may have five students in each academy as congressional nominees. When a student graduates or is separated from the academy, a vacancy is created, for which my office can nominate a principal and nine competing alternate nominees. In some years, more than one vacancy opens up, which greatly expands the pool of potential nominees.

ELIGIBILITY

Each candidate must qualify for appointment by the academies and must qualify for nomination by my office. Standards vary from academy-to-academy, however. In order to apply for a congressional nomination through my office, applicants must meet the following prerequisites:

1. The applicant must be at least 17 years old, but must not have passed his or her 23rd birthday as of July 1 of the year of entry into the academy;
2. The applicant must be a United States citizen before July 1 of the year of entry into the academy;
3. The applicant cannot be married or pregnant, and cannot have any legal obligations to support a child or other dependents;
4. The applicant must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0;
5. The applicant must have a minimum SAT score of 500 in Math and a minimum SAT score of 450 in English.

CONGRESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

When an applicant meets the initial prerequisites and completes the attached application packet, he or she will be scheduled for an interview with one of the congressional advisory committees. These committees are composed of active reserve members of the military, academy alumni, and other members of the community who have important input in the selection process.

Each committee considers standardized test scores, physical aptitude scores, class rank, extracurricular activities, athletics, and medical examinations. When the interview processes are completed, each committee selects the most qualified applicants based on his/her record, in addition to evidence of character, leadership, goals and motivation. The selection of a nominee is not based on any particular element but rather on the whole picture presented of each person.

My committees have been very successful at selecting the most qualified candidates. In fact, we have set congressional records in placing a very high percentage of our nominees in the service academies — something I attribute to both the depth and scope of the committees' interest in the candidates.

APPLICATION AND REFERENCE REPORTS

Please fill out the enclosed application (type written) and return it to my district office at your earliest possible convenience. When I receive the information I will begin a nomination file. Your nomination file must be completed no later than November 1.

Also enclosed are three reference reports. At least one of the three reference reports must be completed by a teacher. The remaining two reference reports should be completed by any other person at your school including teachers, your principal, a coach or a counselor. The reports must be limited to your school environment and cannot be substituted with letters of reference. Only completed reference reports will be accepted.

In addition to the reference reports, you are also required to submit an essay. The essay should be typed single spaced and fit on one page. Please keep your essays neat and organized not exceeding the one page limit.

EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION

The United States service academies are world-renowned academic institutions, and potential appointees must prepare themselves accordingly. A demanding college preparatory curriculum is a must.

Students should speak to their counselors during their freshman and sophomore years to enroll in a college-prep curriculum. It is also advisable for students to begin preparing early for the SAT and ACT tests. These test scores play a critical role in the appointment process. Historically, the higher the candidate's score on the SAT/ACT examinations, the more likely he/she is to be considered for an appointment.

Additionally, you should contact the candidate liaison for the academy of your choice. Contact your school guidance counselor or my office for the telephone number and address.

APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION
TO THE UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES

Date_____

Please indicate a preference:

Air Force_____

Army_____

Navy_____

Name:_____

Last	First	Middle
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Parent or
Guardian:_____

Home
Address:_____

Tel. No.:_____

Social Security Number: _____ Date of Birth:_____

Name of High School

Attending:_____

Date of
Graduation:_____

SAT Scores:_____ Verbal:_____ Math:_____

ACT:_____ Verbal:_____ Math:_____

Extra Curricular Activities (please use back page if needed):

Activities Outside of School (employment, organizations, etc.):

Statement in 50 words or less why you wish to enter an Academy:

Signed:_____

Please remit to:

The Honorable Tom Lantos
400 South El Camino Real, Suite 410
San Mateo, CA 94402
ATTN: Service Academy Liaison

REFERENCE REPORTS

(please type and do not exchange for letters)

Applicant_____

A) Distinguishing or unusual intellectual traits (positive or negative):

B) Distinguishing or unusual personal traits other than intellectual ones
(positive or negative):

Name of person completing this report:_____

Title:_____ Name of School: _____

In what capacity have you known the applicant?_____

How well do you know the applicant?_____

This report is based on:

_____Personal contact

_____Teacher comments

_____Other counselor's observations

_____Records

_____Other

Will the student see a copy of your remarks?_____

Signed:_____Date:_____

REFERENCE REPORTS

(please type and do not exchange for letters)

Applicant_____

A) Distinguishing or unusual intellectual traits (positive or negative):

B) Distinguishing or unusual personal traits other than intellectual ones
(positive or negative):

Name of person completing this report:_____

Title:_____ Name of School: _____

In what capacity have you known the applicant? _____

How well do you know the applicant? _____

This report is based on:

_____Personal contact

_____Teacher comments

_____Other counselor's observations

_____Records

_____Other

Will the student see a copy of your remarks?_____

Signed:_____Date:_____

REFERENCE REPORTS

(please type and do not exchange for letters)

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_____Records

_____Other

Will the student see a copy of your remarks?_____

Signed:_____Date:_____

Essay Question

Recognizing that successful leaders are able to learn from failure, discuss a situation in which you failed and what you learned.